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*Admitted only in Maryland
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August 18, 2005

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Art Unit 1634

Mail Stop: AF

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/613,903; Filed: July 11, 2000
For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**
Inventor: Heather J. JORDAN
Our Ref: 0942.4450001/RWE/JKM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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RWE/JKM:bac
Enclosures

433570_1.DOC



Expedited Procedure – Art Unit 1634

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Heather J. Jordan

Appl. No.: 09/613,903

Filed: July 11, 2000

For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**

Confirmation No.: 1446

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Sisson, Bradley L.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4450001/RWE/JKM

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated May 18, 2005, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims; and
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent

abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.